

FEDERAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM 2000 (FTS2000) Contract Its Use And Mandatory Clauses

I. General

A. This guideline provides a summary of information regarding the "obligations" of the provider (AT&T), the government user, the General Services Administration (GSA) and the mandatory use clause of the present FTS2000 contract.

B. There are two documents that provide guidance in the use of FTS2000 service. These documents are:

1. Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR)
2. Federal Telecommunications System 2000 (FTS2000)
contract

C. In a given situation the AT&T service provider for the Corps may determine that providing an FTS2000 service is not cost effective. However, this does not negate mandatory use of other FTS2000 services which may satisfy the requirement. If no other service will satisfy the requirement, the agency must prepare a request for exception from the use of FTS2000 service.

II. Documentation Supporting the FTS2000 Contract

A. Mandatory FTS2000 contract use is still in effect unless the contract cannot satisfy the communications requirement. In such cases a request for exception from the use of FTS2000 must be submitted to the USACE, Directorate of information Management, CEIM-P. CEIM-P will forward the request to GSA.

B. Concerns have been expressed regarding government and contractor "obligations" under terms of the FTS2000 contract. The following is the hierarchical order of authority:

The Federal Information Resources Management Regulation (FIRMR) was dropped by GSA on 8 August 1996. At that time, the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) remained intact and the telecommunications portion of the FIRMR were placed in the Federal Property Management Regulations (FPMR). This regulation now provides the guidance for the use of FTS2000 services. Since the telecommunications portion of the FIRMR were placed in the FPMR, there are no changes regarding the mandatory use of FTS2000 services. The CFR stipulates "in accordance with section 629 of Public Law 104-52 ...executive agencies must use the FTS2000 long distance network." This regulation is in effect until 8 August 1998 and will most likely be extended.

The (FPMR) applies to the acquisition, management, and

use of Federal Information Processing resources by federal agencies. The FPMR sets forth the policy for the use of FTS2000. The FPMR states that government agencies **must** use FTS2000 to satisfy communications requirements which are within the scope of the FTS2000 contract unless the agency submits a request for exception from the use of FTS2000 to CEIM-P which will forward the request to GSA for review and approval.

The CPR Part 101-35, subpart 101-35.3 and paragraph 101-35.301. Both deal with mandatory use of the FTS long distance network.

3. The FTS2000 contract itself operates under the FPMR and provides the scope of the services available in the contract. The contract scope includes network, voice, data and video services -- as such services become available. Specific services include switched voice service, switched data service, switched digital integrated service, packet switched service, video transmission service, and dedicated transmission service.

III. Future of FTS - FTS2001

A. It is likely that the current FTS2000 contract will be extended to provide a transition period from FTS2000 to FTS2001. It is expected that the FTS2001 contract will be awarded in the fall of 1998.

B. For the most up to date information on the GSA FTS2001 contract, visit GSA's web sites:

<http://post.fts2k.gsa.gov>
<http://www.gsa.gov/maa>

IV. Point of contact

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